

White Haven,
Grant Road, Affton vicinity,
St. Louis County, Mo.

HABS No. MO-1150

HABS
MO
95-AFT.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of St. Louis

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
CENTRAL UNIT — ST. LOUIS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Eugene L. Pleitsch, District Officer
1592 Arcade Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.

"WHITE HAVEN"

Afton Post Office, St. Louis County, Missouri.

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Physical Data

Present owner: Delbert Wenzlick.

Present occupant and use: Now being restored for owner's residence.

Description (present condition)

Wall construction: Frame on stone foundation.

Size and form: 57'-6" x 28'-6".

Number stories: Two, attic, part cellar.

Front porch: 2-story more or less original. Rear porch: Covered passage (modern, removed).

Windows: Double hung first floor, casement (modern) at second.

Exterior doors: Single panel front door with sidelights dating from Greek Revival, part of trim older.

Cornice: Wood.

Roofing: Shingles.

Chimneys: 3, stone.

Interior

Floors: Pine plank.

Doors: Six panel.

Trim: Mitered, moulded.

Mantels: Wood, late Georgian mouldings.

Stairways: Wood, plain square spindles, turned newel.

Plasterwork: No special.

Additions and alterations: Two wings were added and lately removed, front door replaced.

Outbuildings: Stone slave quarters, stone combination spring and smokehouse, large wood barn built by Grant for racehorses.

"White Haven"

Historical Data

Year of erection: 1808 (traditionally).

Architect or designer: Not known.

Built by: Not known.

Original intended use: Residence.

Notable events and occupants:

Mr. Delbert Wenzlick, present owner of "White Haven", offered the following account of the building, part of which history he learned from a great-granddaughter of the original owner:

The central portion of the house included by the extent of the porch was built in 1808 by John Lindsay Long, a retired New England ship captain. His son, John Fenton Long, who was born in the house, according to an old birth certificate, sold it to Col. Frederick Dent, Grant's father-in-law, who used it for a country home. At one time, it is said, the Colonel kept eighty slaves in quarters behind the house, which are still intact. When Col. Dent bought the house from Long in 1821, he named it after his home "Whitehaven" in Maryland. For the past 60 years at least the name has been written as two words. At some early date the southwest room is supposed to have been moved from another location and made an addition to the house.

Ulysses S. Grant bought the house from his father-in-law and came to live there after his term of office as President. He built the large barn, planted the two Linden trees from slips he brought from Unter den Linden, Berlin, and the Ginkgo trees from the Orient after a trip around the world. Grant lost the place after financial reverses in the 80's. The late Albert Wenzlick acquired it by foreclosure.

Prepared by F. Ray Leimkuehler October 26, 1940.

F. Ray Leimkuehler,
Architect in Charge, Central Unit,
Historic American Buildings Survey.

Approved: Eugene L. Plattsch Date Nov. 30 1940

District Officer

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WHITE HAVEN (*Grant-Dent Country House*)
(Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site)
7400 Grant Road
~~St. Louis~~ *Affton Vic.*
St. Louis *Co.*
Missouri

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ADDENDUM TO:
GRANT-DENT COUNTRY HOUSE
Grant Road
St. Louis Co.
Affton Vic.
Missouri

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
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